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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent

In re patent application of: NIVET

Serial No.: NEW APPLICATION

Filed: On even date herewith

For: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE ...

Examiner:

Art Unit:

Dckt No.: P07469US00/DEJ

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C.

S I R:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

A clean version of the amended claims is provided herewith in **Attachment A**. It will be noted that all the claims have been amended relative to the previously provided version as shown by the marked up version thereof in **Attachment B** provided herewith.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the claims have been rewritten to reduce the multiple dependencies.

Further and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/03/02

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ATTACHMENT A

Clean Replacement/New Claims (entire set of pending claims)

Following herewith is a clean copy of the entire set of pending claims.

1. (amended) A method for controlling the dynamics of a seat comprising at least three seat parts which can move with respect to one another, and at least two actuators for moving the three parts with respect to one another, the method comprising a step of operating the two actuators jointly to modify the configuration of the seat, characterized in that said step of joint operation comprises the following successive steps:

- activating a first actuator at a first instant; and
- activating a second actuator at a second instant subsequent to the first instant and separated from the first instant by a predetermined length of time.

2. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a step of detecting that the first actuator has stopped during the predetermined length of time and a step of activating the second actuator as soon as it is detected that the first actuator has stopped.

3. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said step of joint operation of the two actuators is a step of bringing the seat into a predetermined configuration in which two of the moving parts are in predetermined positions specific to the predetermined configuration.

4. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 2 taken together, characterized in that the step of detecting that the first actuator has stopped comprises a step of detecting that the seat part operated by the first actuator has reached its predetermined position.

5. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, in which the seat comprises a seat cushion, a leg rest articulated to the seat cushion between a folded-back position and a deployed position, a foot rest that can move with respect to the leg rest between a

retracted position and a deployed position, and two actuators arranged, one of them between the seat cushion and the leg rest, and the other one, between the leg rest and the foot rest, in which method the phase of joint operation of the two activators is designed to move the leg rest into its deployed position and the foot rest into its deployed position, characterized in that the first actuator triggered at the first instant is the actuator arranged between the seat cushion and the leg rest, and the second actuator triggered at the second instant subsequent to the first instant is the actuator arranged between the leg rest and the foot rest.

6. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, in which the seat comprises a seat cushion, a leg rest articulated to the seat cushion between a folded-back position and a deployed position, a foot rest that can move with respect to the leg rest between a retracted position and a deployed position, and two actuators arranged, one of them between the seat cushion and the leg rest, and the other one, between the leg rest and the foot rest, in which method the phase of joint operation of the two activators is designed to move the leg rest into its folded-back position and the foot rest into its retracted position, characterized in that the first actuator triggered at the first instant is the actuator arranged between the leg rest and the foot rest, and the second actuator triggered at the second instant subsequent to the first instant is the actuator arranged between the seat cushion and the leg rest.

7. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the predetermined length of time separating the first and second instants is set to make sure that the foot rest does not strike the floor over which the seat is installed when the seat configuration is being modified.

8. (amended) A seat comprising at least three seat parts which can move with respect to one another, and at least two actuators for moving the three parts with respect to one another, and means for operating the two actuators jointly to modify the configuration of the seat, characterized in that said joint operating means comprise:

- means for actuating a first actuator at a first instant; and

- means of actuating a second actuator at a second instant subsequent to the said first instant and separated from the first instant by a predetermined length of time.

9. (amended) The seat as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that said joint operating means comprise means of detecting that the first actuator has stopped during the predetermined length of time and means of actuating the second actuator as soon as it is detected that the first actuator has stopped.

ATTACHMENT B

Marked Up Replacement Claims

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim together with all other pending claims.

1. (amended) A method for controlling the dynamics of a seat (10) comprising at least three seat parts (16, 20, 22) which can move with respect to one another, and at least two actuators (24, 26) for moving the three parts (16, 20, 22) with respect to one another, the method comprising a step of operating the two actuators (24, 26) jointly to modify the configuration of the seat, characterized in that the said step of joint operation comprises the following successive steps:

- activating a first actuator (24) at a first instant; and
- activating a second actuator (26) at a second instant subsequent to the said first instant and separated from the first instant by a predetermined length of time.

2. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a step of detecting that the first actuator (24) has stopped during the said predetermined length of time and a step of activating the second actuator (26) as soon as it is detected that the first actuator (24) has stopped.

3. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the said step of joint operation of the two actuators is a step of bringing the seat into a predetermined configuration in which two of the moving parts (20, 22) are in predetermined positions specific to the said predetermined configuration.

4. (amended) The method as claimed in claims 2 and 3 taken together, characterized in that the step of detecting that the first actuator (24) has stopped comprises a step of detecting that the seat part (20) operated by the first actuator (24) has reached its predetermined position.

5. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, in which the seat (10) comprises a seat cushion (16), a leg rest (20) articulated to the seat cushion (16) between a folded-back position and a deployed position, a foot rest (22) that can move with respect to the leg rest (20) between a retracted position and a deployed position, and two actuators (24, 26) arranged, one of them between the seat cushion (16) and the leg rest (20), and the other one, between the leg rest (20) and the foot rest (22), in which method the phase of joint operation of the two activators (24, 26) is designed to move the leg rest (20) into its deployed position and the foot rest (22) into its deployed position, characterized in that the first actuator triggered at the said first instant is the actuator (24) arranged between the seat cushion (16) and the leg rest (20), and the second actuator triggered at the said second instant subsequent to the first instant is the actuator (26) arranged between the leg rest (20) and the foot rest (22).

6. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, in which the seat (10) comprises a seat cushion (16), a leg rest (20) articulated to the seat cushion (16) between a folded-back position and a deployed position, a foot rest (22) that can move with respect to the leg rest (20) between a retracted position and a deployed position, and two actuators (24, 26) arranged, one of them between the seat cushion (16) and the leg rest (20), and the other one, between the leg rest (20) and the foot rest (22), in which method the phase of joint operation of the two activators (24, 26) is designed to move the leg rest (20) into its folded-back position and the foot rest (22) into its retracted position, characterized in that the first actuator triggered at the said first instant is the actuator (26) arranged between the leg rest (20) and the foot rest (22), and the second actuator triggered at the said second instant subsequent to the first instant is the actuator (24) arranged between the seat cushion (16) and the leg rest (20).

7. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 5 ~~or~~ 6, characterized in that the said predetermined length of time separating the first and second instants is set to make sure that the foot rest (22) does not strike the floor over which the seat is installed when the seat configuration is being modified.

8. (amended) A seat ~~(10)~~ comprising at least three seat parts ~~(16, 20, 22)~~ which can move with respect to one another, and at least two actuators ~~(24, 26)~~ for moving the three parts ~~(16, 20, 22)~~ with respect to one another, and means ~~(28, 32)~~ for operating the two actuators ~~(24, 26)~~ jointly to modify the configuration of the seat, characterized in that ~~the said~~ joint operating means ~~(28, 32)~~ comprise:

- means for actuating a first actuator ~~(24)~~ at a first instant; and
- means of actuating a second actuator ~~(26)~~ at a second instant subsequent to the said first instant and separated from the first instant by a predetermined length of time.

9. (amended) The seat as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that ~~the said~~ joint operating means comprise means ~~(44, 46)~~ of detecting that the first actuator ~~(24)~~ has stopped during the ~~said~~ predetermined length of time and means ~~(28)~~ of actuating the second actuator ~~(26)~~ as soon as it is detected that the first actuator ~~(24)~~ has stopped.